

XXIV. PROFESSOR MORSE

(1791-1872)

220. How they sent the news of the completion of the Erie Canal to New York City ; Franklin and Morse. — The Erie Canal, in the state of New York, connects the Hudson River at Albany with Lake Erie at Buffalo. It is the greatest work of the kind in America, and was completed many years ago. When the water was let into the canal from the lake, the news was flashed from Buffalo to New York City by a row of cannon, about five miles apart,



HOW THEY FLASHED THE NEWS OF THE COMPLETION OF THE
ERIE CANAL IN 1825

which were fired as rapidly as possible, one after the other. The first cannon was fired at Buffalo at ten o'clock in the morning ; the last was fired at New York at half-past eleven. In an hour and a half the sound had travelled over five hundred miles. Everybody said that was wonderfully quick work ; but to-day we could send the news in less than a minute. The man who found out how to do this was Samuel F. B. Morse.